

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A network selection apparatus for inclusion within an electronic computing device to determine a best network service of a plurality of wired and wireless networks for the electronic computing device, the apparatus comprising:

a network query module configured to query a first network for a plurality of first network characteristics and to query a second network for a plurality of second network characteristics;

a service level module configured to determine a first network service level based on the plurality of first network characteristics and to determine a second network service level based on the plurality of second network characteristics;

a best network module configured to determine a best network from the first and second networks based on the first and second service levels; and

a network connection module configured to dynamically connect the electronic computing device to the best network.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the service level module is further configured to determine the first network service level based on an influenced algorithm by allowing one of the plurality of first network characteristics to influence the determination of the first service level a first amount and allowing another of the plurality of first network characteristics to influence the determination of the first service level a second amount.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 3~~, claim 2, wherein the first amount is equal to the second amount.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the first amount is greater than the second amount.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an evaluation module configured to evaluate a plurality of actual best network characteristics.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the service level module is further configured to determine an actual best network service level based on the influenced algorithm using the plurality of actual best network characteristics.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a dynamic switching module configured to dynamically disconnect the electronic computing device from a previously best network before the network connection module dynamically connects the electronic computing device to the best network.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a profile module configured to maintain a profile, the profile comprising a plurality of profile characteristics.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the profile comprises a default user profile, the default user profile comprising a plurality of default user preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics.

10. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the profile comprises a user-defined profile, the user-defined profile comprising a plurality of user-defined preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics.

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the profile comprises a minimum service level.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the profile comprises an application profile, the application profile comprising a plurality of application preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics.

13. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the profile comprises a first network profile and a second network profile, the first network profile comprising a plurality of first network characteristics associated with the first network, the second network profile comprising a plurality of second network characteristics associated with the second network.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of first network characteristics comprises at least two characteristics selected from the group consisting of a network type indicator, a cost indicator, a security indicator, a bandwidth indicator, a signal strength indicator, a time remaining indicator, and a mobility indicator.

15. (currently amended) A system for determining a best network service of a plurality of wired and wireless networks for an electronic computing device, the system comprising:

an electronic computing device having a central processing unit, an electronic storage device, a user interface adapter, and a communications adapter;

a first network connection adapter and a second network connection adapter that is different than the first network connection adapter, the first network adapter configured to connect to a first network and the second network adapter configured to connect to a second network; and

a network selection apparatus resident within the electronic computing device, the network selection apparatus configured to use an influenced algorithm to process a plurality of first network characteristics and a plurality of second network characteristics to dynamically select a best network from the first and second networks.

16. (currently amended) A system for determining a best network service of a plurality of wired and wireless networks for an electronic computing device, the system comprising:

a first network;

a second network;

an electronic computing device having a first connection adapter and a second connection adapter, the first connection adapter configured to connect to the first network and the second network adapter configured to connect to the second network;

a network query module resident within the electronic computing device, the network query module configured to query the first network for a plurality of first network characteristics and to query the second network for a plurality of second network characteristics;

a service level module resident within the electronic computing device, the service level module configured to determine a first network service level based on an influenced algorithm using the plurality of first network characteristics and to determine a second network service level based on the influenced algorithm using the plurality of second network characteristics;

a best network module resident within the electronic computing device, the best network module configured to determine a best network from the first and second networks based on the first and second service levels; and

a network connection module resident within the electronic computing device, the network connection module configured to dynamically connect the electronic computing device to the best network.

17. (currently amended) A network selection process for determining a best network service of a plurality of wired and wireless networks for an electronic computing device, the process comprising:

querying a first network for a plurality of first network characteristics and querying a second network for a plurality of second network characteristics;

determining a first network service level based on the plurality of first network characteristics and determining a second network service level based on the plurality of second network characteristics;

determining a best network from the first and second networks based on the first and second service levels; and

dynamically connecting the electronic computing device to the best network.

18. (original) The process of claim 17, wherein determining a first network service level further comprises determining the first network service level based on an influenced algorithm by allowing one of the plurality of first network characteristics to influence the determination of the first service level a first amount and allowing another of the plurality of first network characteristics to influence the determination of the first service level a second amount.

19. (original) The process of claim 17, further comprising evaluating a plurality of actual best network characteristics.

20. (original) The process of claim 19, further comprising determining an actual best network service level based on the influenced algorithm using the plurality of actual best network characteristics.

21. (original) The process of claim 17, further comprising dynamically disconnecting the electronic computing device from a previously best network before dynamically connecting the electronic computing device to the best network.

22. (original) The process of claim 17, further comprising maintaining a profile, the profile comprising a plurality of profile characteristics.

23. (original) The process of claim 22, wherein the profile comprises a default user profile, the default user profile comprising a plurality of default user preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics.

24. (original) The process of claim 22, wherein the profile comprises a user-defined profile, the user-defined profile comprising a plurality of user-defined preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics.

25. (original) The process of claim 22, wherein the profile comprises an application profile, the application profile comprising a plurality of application preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics.

26. (original) The process of claim 22, wherein the profile comprises a first network profile and a second network profile, the first network profile comprising a plurality of first network characteristics associated with the first network and the second network profile comprising a plurality of second network characteristics associated with the second network.

27. (original) The process of claim 17, wherein the plurality of first network characteristics comprises at least two characteristics selected from the group consisting of a network type indicator, a cost indicator, a security indicator, a bandwidth indicator, a signal strength indicator, a time remaining indicator, and a mobility indicator.

28. (currently amended) A network selection process for determining a best network service of a plurality of wired and wireless networks for an electronic computing device, the process comprising:

querying a first network for a plurality of first network characteristics and querying a second network for a plurality of second network characteristics, the plurality first and second network characteristics each comprising at least two characteristics selected from the group consisting of network type, cost, security, bandwidth, signal strength, time remaining, and mobility;

determining a first network service level based on an influenced algorithm using the plurality of first network characteristics and determining a second network service

level based on the influenced algorithm using the plurality of second network characteristics;

determining a best network from the first and second networks based on the first and second service levels;

dynamically connecting the electronic computing device to the best network;

maintaining a profile that comprises a plurality of profile characteristics, including a minimum service level;

maintaining a default user profile that comprises a plurality of default user preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics;

maintaining a user-defined profile that comprises a plurality of user-defined preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics;

maintaining an application profile that comprises a plurality of application preference levels associated with the plurality of profile characteristics;

maintaining a first network profile that further comprises a plurality of first network characteristics associated with the first network;

maintaining a second network profile that further comprises a plurality of second network characteristics associated with the second network;

evaluating a plurality of actual best network characteristics;

determining an actual best network service level based on the influenced algorithm using the plurality of actual best network characteristics; and

dynamically disconnecting the electronic computing device from a previously best network before dynamically connecting the electronic computing device to the best network.

29. (currently amended) A computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable code configured to carry out a network selection process for determining a best network service of a plurality of wired and wireless networks for an electronic computing device, the process comprising:

querying a first network for a plurality of first network characteristics and querying a second network for a plurality of second network characteristics;

determining a first network service level based on an influenced algorithm using the plurality of first network characteristics and determining a second network service level based on the influenced algorithm using the plurality of second network characteristics;

determining a best network from the first and second networks based on the first and second service levels; and

dynamically connecting the electronic computing device to the best network.

30. (currently amended) An network selection apparatus for determining a best network service of a plurality of wired and wireless networks for an electronic computing device, the apparatus comprising:

means for querying a first network for a plurality of first network characteristics and querying a second network for a plurality of second network characteristics;

means for determining a first network service level based on an influenced algorithm using the plurality of first network characteristics and determining a second network service level based on the influenced algorithm using the plurality of second network characteristics;

means for determining a best network from the first and second networks based on the first and second service levels; and

means for dynamically connecting the electronic computing device to the best network.